

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 INSE-00 H-01 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3548
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 2037
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, MY
SUBJECT: PROPOSED NEW INDOCHINESE PAROLE PROGRAM AND REFUGEE
LEGISLATION

REF: (A) STATE 94543 (B) STATE 95610

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF B, DCM BRIEFED SENIOR MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) OFFICIAL APRIL 19 ON PROPOSED NEW
INDOCHINESE PAROLE PROGRAM AND REFUGEE LEGISLATION. HE
PASSED ON A COPY OF PERTINENT EXCERPTS FROM ASSISTANT
SECRETARY DERIAN'S APRIL 12 STATEMENT MAKING CLEAR THAT
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS NOT YET MADE A DECISION ON PAROLE.
MFA OFFICIAL EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THIS LATEST
INFORMATION ON US REFUGEE EFFORTS AND SAID GOM UNDERSTOOD
VERY WELL THE MAJOR CONTRIBUTION THE US WAS MAKING TO
RELIEVE THE REFUGEE PROBLEM.

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2. DCM TOOK OPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE MFA OFFICIAL
LATEST FIGURES ON REFUGEE ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES
AND THE NUMBER OF THE LATTER WHICH THE US HAD ALREADY
TAKEN OR PLANNED TO TAKE UNDER IPP77 AND IPP78.
HE POINTED OUT THAT IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER
COUNTRIES' PROGRAMS (MOST NOTABLY AUSTRALIA), THE

NUMBERS AVAILABLE WERE SUFFICIENT TO ACCOMMODATE MOST OF THOSE ALREADY IN MALAYSIAN CAMPS. THIS DID NOT, HOWEVER, TAKE CARE OF FUTURE ARRIVALS, AND FOR THIS REASON THE US IS SEEKING AUTHORITY FOR ADDITIONAL NUMBERS AS INDICATED BY MS. DERIAN IN HER TESTIMONY. MFA OFFICIAL SAID THESE FIGURES WERE SIMILAR TO HIS OWN COMPLIATIONS, AND HE APPRECIATED OUR HELP IN CONFIRMING THEM AND PROVIDING HIM FURTHER MATERIAL WHICH HE WOULD USE TO BRIEF HIS SUPERIORS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO SHOW STEADY, CONTINUED MOVEMENT OF THE REFUGEES OUT OF THE CAMPS.

3. MFA OFFICIAL ASKED WHETHER SOME DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN "ECONOMIC" AND "POLITICAL" REFUGEES WOULD BE MADE IN THE US PROGRAM. DCM REPLIED THAT WE DID NOT MAKE ANY SUCH DISTINCTION AND THIS WOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE A FACTOR IN OUR CONSIDERATION OF REFUGEES FOR RESETTLEMENT IN THE US. MFA OFFICIAL APPEARED RELIEVED AT THIS RESPONSE.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT THE NEWS OF OUR PROPOSED LEGISLATION AND POSSIBLE FURTHER PAROLE AUTHORITY IN THE INTERIM WILL BE WELL RECEIVED BY THE GOM AND WILL CONTRIBUTE TO MAINTENANCE OF THEIR POSITIVE AND HELPFUL ATTITUDE TOWARD ARRIVING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REFUGEES. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, THEY ARE WELL AWARE THAT THE REFUGEE CAMP POPULATION IS GROWING RAPIDLY WITH THE RECENT VERY HIGH RATE OF ARRIVALS, AND THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT MOVEMENT OUT OF THE CAMPS IS NOT KEEPING UP. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE CONTINUE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO STREAMLINE OUR PROCEDURES AND SPEED THIS MOVEMENT UP AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
MILLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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